

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02368 141759Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 141750Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8300  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH  
SUBJECT: BRITISH VIEW OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONSULTATIONS  
ON RHODESIA

1. EMBOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE AT FCO NORMAN ASPIN AND ACTING HEAD RHODESIA DEPARTMENT AT FCO PETER BARLOW IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS ON FEBRUARY 13. BRITISH INFORMATION IS THAT SMITH AND ANC REPS ARE STILL DISCUSSING MODALITIES FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND HAVE NOT YET BROACHED SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING MAJORITY RULE. ASPIN REITERATED THAT AS FAR AS BRITISH CONCERNED, ONLY POSSIBLE SITE FOR CONFERENCE THAT WOULD BE REJECTED OUT OF HAND IS UK. REASON IS THAT SHOULD SMITH OR OTHER OFFICIAL FROM REBEL RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT COME TO UK, HE WOULD BE LIABLE TO PRIVATE PROSECUTION FOR TREASON. WHILE BRITISH WOULD NOT WANT PARTI-

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PAGE 02 LONDON 02368 141759Z

CUTION FOR TREASON. WHILE BRITISH WOULD NOT WANT PARTI-

CIPATE IN CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN RHODESIA,  
THEY WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN GIVING NECESSARY LEGAL AP-  
PROVAL TO ANY AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES EVEN  
IF SUCH AGREEMENT REACHED DURING CONFERENCES IN RHODESIA.

2. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF REPORT FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMIS-  
SIONER IN LUSAKA OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S MEETING WITH ANC  
VICE PRESIDENT GABELLAH (LUSAKA 249), FCO CONCERNED OVER  
POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED SPLIT IN ANC DUE TO ZANU'S MACHI-  
NATIONS. IN THIS REGARD ASPIN SAID SITHOLE'S DISCLOSURE  
OF MULLER VISIT TO PRESS IS EVIDENCE OF HIS HOSTILITY TO  
NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT. BRITISH BELIEVE SITHOLE AND OTHER  
ZANU LEADERS CONVINCED CEASE-FIRE FOLLOWED BY PERIOD OF  
PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE UNFAVORABLE TO ZANU BE-  
CAUSE ZANU LEADERS WOULD BE UNABLE TO MAINTAIN MOTIVA-  
TION OF THEIR FIGHTING ELEMENTS IN SUCH A SITUATION AND  
ZANU POLITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN RHODESIA STILL RUDIMEN-  
TARY. ZAPU ON OTHER HAND SUPPORTING PRESENT NEGOTIA-  
TIONS BECAUSE ITS FIGHTING FORCES HAVE BEEN INEFFECTIVE  
FOR SOME TIME, BUT ITS POLITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN RHO-  
DESIA OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE.

3. COMMENT: FCO REMAINS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THEIR  
ATTITUDE TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS THUS FAR HAS PROVEN CORRECT.  
THEY PARTICULARLY CONTENT WITH THEIR REFUSAL TO SUCCUMB  
TO AFRICAN PRESSURES AND CALL A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
AND REMAIN UNCONVINCED BY AFRICAN ARGUMENT THAT ONLY WAY  
TO GET SMITH TO MAKE NECESSARY COMPROMISES IS BY CALLING  
SUCH A CONFERENCE. BRITISH, OF COURSE, BELIEVE SMITH  
WOULD NOT HAVE ANY REASON TO PARTICIPATE AND WOULD BE  
UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT INVITATION FROM THEM. PREMATURE CALL-  
ING OF CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE WOULD LEAD TO BREAKDOWN  
OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND RETURN TO PROTRACTED GUERRILLA WAR.  
END COMMENT. SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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